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~~Top Secret~~**BALKAN CRISIS: Milosevic's Serbian Election Campaign**

Serbian President Milosevic is intensifying efforts to manipulate the election process and to short-circuit the opposition's campaign.

Although the Serbian Supreme Court yesterday gave final approval to Yugoslav Prime Minister Panic's presidential bid, Milosevic for the most part has kept the opposition divided and off-balance. Serbian electoral authorities refused to drop Vuk Draskovic—initially the main opposition candidate—from the ballot, even though he endorsed Panic and withdrew. They also refused to allow the infamous "Captain Dragan"—a competitor for Milosevic's support among Serbian nationalists—to run under that nickname.

The opposition also has complained about manipulation of the media, particularly television. Opposition parties, nevertheless, are conducting a vigorous campaign, with frequent rallies and numerous advertisements in print and on radio.

Comment: On the surface, the opposition still has the ability to conduct a credible campaign, but Milosevic has stacked the deck while avoiding blatantly unconstitutional acts. Serbian authorities probably believe their media campaign against Panic and their control of voter rolls will ensure Milosevic's reelection and the Socialist Party's continued dominance in Serbia. Milosevic almost certainly would take further steps, however, if he believed the opposition were headed for an upset victory. Refugee voters, in particular, could skew the outcome if they were encouraged to vote early and often.

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